

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Applicants are thankful for the time and consideration given by Examiners Ho and Aggarwal during the personal interview of October 12, 2004.

The Official Action rejects claims 13-16 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of SWARTZ et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 13 and 16 to explicitly adopt the Jepson claim format and to clarify the original recitation. Specifically, each of these claims as now amended points out that the characteristic of being "provided inside the body" applies to the light-shielding housing. The light-shielding housing, in turn, covers at least a moving range of the printing head in a light-tight fashion. As noted in the Interview Summary, this feature is undisclosed by the applied SWARTZ et al. reference.

The Official Action rejects claims 17, 19, and 20 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of SHINTANI and further in view of OGAWA. Applicants have

canceled the rejected claims, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

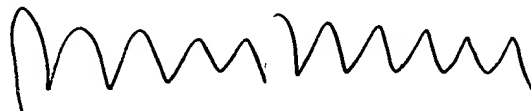
As stated in the Interview Summary, the Examiners agreed to enter the present amendment and perform a further search based on the claims in their amended form.

In light of the amendments described above and the arguments offered in support thereof, applicants believe that the present amendment is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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RJP/EJ/mjr
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